

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: May 12, 2020

Time: 10:18am Late start due to technical difficulties.

Place: Town Hall

Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Others in participating: Mary McGurn, Laura Allen, Chuck Ogden, Bruce Bernstein, Peg McDonough.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 5, 2020 were accepted as edited.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Human Resources recommended to the Selectboard that Richard LaRose be terminated immediately from his job as Highway Personnel Member. After discussion the Board voted unanimously to terminate immediately. Verbal notification will be made by the Road Superintendent today. A letter of dismissal will be issued by Chairman McGurn and sent to the Union as required by the union contract.

The Board unanimously accepted with regrets the resignation of Steve Rawlings from the Finance Committee.

The vacancy on the Planning Board, which is a one-year term, will be posted.

Charles Flynn has complained that the FiberConnect truck left ruts on his property on the edge of the roadway. The Police have determined that the ruts were in fact in the town's right of way. The Board will take no action.

OLD BUSINESS:

Charles Miller asked for clarification regarding moving forward with the issue between his dog and the neighbors chickens. Any future incidents will be judged on the specifics of the incident. If the chickens go onto his property he can contact the Agricultural Commission. His dog has not yet been declared a "nuisance".

The Mount Washington Selectboard have agreed to ask their Town Meeting to fund the Egremont fire services fee at the requested amount which includes costs of capital items. Both towns will get together in the near future to review the 2004 agreement. Any amendments will need to clearly spell out that medical calls are considered a part of the emergency services covered.

A grant application is being prepared to obtain transportation for Egremont's vulnerable population during the balance of this calendar year. This will enhance any services offered by Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation (SBETC) as they do not travel to Pittsfield or Bay State medical. A possible second grant will be written to obtain a vehicle for Egremont to transport its own vulnerable population. The Board empowered Chairman McGurn, Vice-Chairman Vermeulen, and Bruce Bernstein with the help of staff to expedite the paperwork to file for this grant. Peg McDonough

noted that Berkshire Regional Planning has suggested that Berkshire Regional Transit Authority apply as well. This grant is being issued on a rolling basis so time is of the essence.

SBETC has reported that beginning May 18 they will begin to do shopping and other errands for people. They will not be transporting anyone.

COVID19: The Board awaits the Governor's guidance on re-opening which will be announced on May 18, 2020.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATE/THINGS NOT TO FORGET:

MassDOT is asking for Town input on a detour for when the culvert is replaced on Route 23/41 near Creamery Road. The Board scheduled this discussion for May 19 at 10am.

There are still no minutes from the School Consolidation Planning Committee.

There is a bit of good news in the area of Broadband. Verbal confirmation has been received that MBI and FiberConnect have come to an agreement. That agreement is being presented to the Mass Technology Committee by MBI at the next meeting. There is no known date for that meeting.

There will be a planning meeting for the Town's Birthday Celebration on June 9, 2020.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 10am.

FY21 BUDGET/TOWN MEETING:

There is no longer a need for a Special Town Meeting prior to the Annual Town Meeting as the Auditors have declared that a journal entry can fix the error made in the Town Hall Repairs account, and there is seemingly enough funds left in other Water Department account to cover the wage overdraft.

The Finance Committee has one more meeting scheduled to wrap up its recommendations for the warrant.

The Board approved an amended budget amount for Health/Dental Insurance in the amount of \$317,350.

Details are still being gathered to help the Board in its decision on where to hold the Annual Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:11am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.20/may12

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.